

**From:** KGRRS@aol.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am a consumer of computer hardware and software products, both as a retail home user, and as owner and operator of an \$18,000,000 per year information technology services consulting company. My viewpoint encompasses both personal and business aspects, and it is that my government should settle this lawsuit immediately, without further harassment of Microsoft, on these grounds.

1. I remember when there was no real market leader in this area and there was rampant, costly, unproductive competition. Companies and consumers wasted much money on products that were incompatible, inefficient, poorly produced and all too often short lived. Microsoft's technical and market leadership has produced an orderly market, where users of this technology can invest with the certainty that the product and vendor will be there tomorrow, and that this investment will not be wasted. Yet there is still room for true invention, as new products are still produced, even today. LINUX software is an example.

2. This entire litigation has roots in the political process. In the pre-'96 national election process, Bill Clinton went to Silicon Valley to raise funds for the his reelection and his Democratic party. The largest contributors were the Barksdales and Ellisons (Netscape and Oracle) of the technology world, the biggest complainers about and competitors to Microsoft. Lo and behold, shortly after he raised millions of dollars from them, the United States Department of Justice initiated this lawsuit.

3. At a personal level, I see the United States government using my tax dollars to cripple one of the most successful companies, and entrepreneurs, of our modern times, for very dubious reasons and non-existant benefits to anyone but the trial lawyers and the Silicon Valley moguls. And as an entrepreneur in my own right, albeit a lesser scale than Bill Gates, I see my government's efforts here as a disgusting bullying by lawyers who produce nothing against people who actually produce goods, services and jobs for society.

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